



TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

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July 2011

The TSSWCB produces this monthly update of the agency's activities as an informational service to local SWCD Directors. I hope you find this information helpful, and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call your local field representative or our state headquarters.

REX ISOM, Executive Director

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STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday, September 21, 2011** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, September 22, 2011** in Temple. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Appropriations

House Bill 1 (General Appropriations Act) was signed by the Governor on June 17, 2011, and goes into effect on September 1, 2011.

The cumulative amounts for the 2012-13 biennium will result in a general revenue reduction of approximately \$7 million per year (33%) for the agency.

The most notable reductions are a 73% reduction to the Flood Control Dam grant programs and a 50% reduction to the Water Supply Enhancement Program. Other outcomes include an overall 20% reduction in the Technical Assistance Program a 10% reduction in Indirect Administration.

Sunset Legislation

Legislation needed to continue the TSSWCB's existence beyond August 31, 2011 and implement the recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission was signed by the Governor on May 17, 2011. House Bill 1808 takes effect September 1, 2011, and continues the TSSWCB through September 1, 2023. TSSWCB has started developing recommendations on changes to agency programs for the State Board to act upon in order to implement the legislation.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- The deadline for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Quarter SWCD Director Mileage and Per Diem claims was July 1
- The deadline for 4th Quarter and Supplemental Matching Fund claims is August 31
- The deadline for annual Technical Assistance Performance Reports is August 31

For more accounting and budgeting information, contact Kenny Zajicek at (254) 773-2250 or zajicek@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following position:

- Natural Resource Specialist- Center
- Administrative Assistant- Hale Center

For additional information on posted vacancies or to download an application, visit <https://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/employment>

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Program Overview

The TSSWCB Special Projects department provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of SWCD Directors, facilitates open government functions required by the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, and directs the completion of other mandatory agency responsibilities such as publishing the agency's Semi-Annual Report and coordinating rule-making functions.

Annual State Meeting of Texas SWCD Directors

The 71st Annual State Meeting is scheduled for October 24-26, 2011, in San Antonio at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Hotel and Resort. For reservations call (210) 647-1234 or (800) 233-1234. Additional reservations may be made with:

- Hilton San Antonio/Hill Country Hotel and Spa by calling 1 (800) Hiltons, or by calling them directly at (210) 767-5900. Please use the group code: TSSWCB
 - Holiday Inn Northwest/Sea World Area by calling 1 (800) Holiday or (210) 520-2508, or by going to their website, www.holidayinn.com/sanantonionw. Please use the group code of TSS
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PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

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Conservation News

Conservation News is a collection of readily available current news and information regarding natural resource issues. TSSWCB periodically distributes Conservation News via email to those interested. To subscribe, send an email to conservation-news-subscribe@tsswcb.state.tx.us. Conservation News is also available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/news>.

Program Development Workshop

A total of thirty individuals attended the Program Development Workshop held June 28-29 in Temple. Participants included nine directors, a combination of eleven TSSWCB and SWCD employees, and 10 NRCS district conservationists. If you have any questions about this workshop, please contact Clyde Gottschalk at (254) 773-2250 ext. 222 or cgottschalk@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contests- State Event

First and second place winners in each of the ten FFA areas competed in a state competition held in conjunction with the 83rd Texas FFA State Convention in Lubbock, July 11-15.

Top area contestants from the following chapters competing at the State event were:

Contestant	FFA Chapter	Area
Caitlyn Brown	Valley	1
Chelsea Shields	Idlou	1
Pamela Walker	Haskell	2
Courtney Jasik	Irion County	2
Kaitlyn Sestak	Weimar	3
Megan Coussens	Katy	3
Abby Guy	Winters	4
Savannah Bowers	Iowa Park	4
Sarah Kline	Bridgeport	5
Amanda Hill	Commerce	5
Breanthony Baker	Chapel Hill Northeast	6
Lakin Porter	Mount Pleasant	6
Travis McCubbin	Blanco	7
Kellam Nabers	Blanco	7
Cheyenne Hammons	Burleson	8
Clayton Stone	Fairfield	8
Anna Bailey	Madisonville	9
Lauren R. Kirk	Madisonville	9
Katy Atkinson	Los Fresnos	10
Victoria Mathis	Calallen	10

Of the twenty contestants competing at the state event, Caitlyn Brown with the Valley FFA Chapter won first place in the competition. Megan Coussens of the Katy FFA Chapter placed second,

and Cheyenne Hammons of the Burleson FFA Chapter placed third in the state event.

First, second, and third place winners in the state level soil stewardship public speaking contest earned scholarships. First place winner received a \$3,000 scholarship; second place winner received a \$2,000 scholarship; and the third place winner received a \$1,000 scholarship.

The theme of this year's contest was "Forests for People- More than you can imagine!" The contest is a cooperative effort of Texas FFA, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The theme of the contest is based on the National Association of Conservation Districts' annual soil stewardship program.

The first place winner in the Soil Stewardship Public Speaking contest will be a guest speaker at the annual meeting of SWCD directors which will be held October 24-26 in San Antonio.

Wildlife Alliance for Youth

The Wildlife Alliance for Youth held its annual meeting on Thursday, July 14, in Lubbock and established its 2012 regional and state contest dates. A major change in the program will eliminate the compass and pacing component of the program. In place of the compass and pacing component, there will be added questions in the "techniques" area of the contest. In addition, the plant list was modified somewhat to make it more compatible with regions and more practical at the state contest.

Miscellaneous

San Angelo, TX will host the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Texas Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM). The Texas Section of SRM is a professional society and conservation organization whose members are concerned with studying conserving managing and sustaining the varied resources of the rangelands in Texas.

The theme for the annual meeting is, "Rangeland Stewardship: A History of Heritage, A Future of Change." The meeting will be held at the McNease Convention Center in San Angelo on October 12-

14, 2011. Sessions will include technical papers, young professional presentations, agriculture updates, Farm Bill programs, wind energy, media uses, etc.

Conservation Video Library

About the Library

There are over 200 conservation-related videos available; the 2011 catalog can be downloaded at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/infoed/videolibrary>. No rental fees are assessed to those wishing to borrow videos from the library.

Ordering a Video

Select a video from the Conservation Video Catalog, then contact Mel Davis at mdavis@tsswcb.state.tx.us to check it out. The Association of Texas SWCDs will pay the first transit postage costs to mail the video(s) to the requester. Postage for returning the video(s) will be the responsibility of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

Program Overview

With the passage of Senate Bill 503 in 1993, the Texas Legislature directed the TSSWCB to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) to abate agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source water pollution. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs. The agency has been implementing WQMPs on private lands since late 1993 and has certified over 14,000 plans. The TSSWCB identifies areas of the state where water quality is being negatively impacted by agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source water pollution and allocates funding to those areas to serve as financial incentives to increase participation in the program. More information about the WQMP Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wqmp>.

FY2012 allocations of financial incentive funding for priority SWCDs was approved by the State

Board in July 2011. The deadline for obligating FY2012 funds is April 30, 2012.

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Program Overview

In 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require all persons who own or operate a poultry facility to implement and maintain a WQMP certified by the TSSWCB.

In 2009, the 81st Texas Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require TSSWCB to assess whether the siting and construction of all new poultry farms or existing farms that expand by more than 50% within ½ mile of permanently inhabited residences, businesses, or places of worship is likely to cause a persistent nuisance odor. An odor control plan may be required for those farms. The new law also requires all poultry producers and most receivers of poultry litter to keep records of poultry litter usage.

Program Activities

TSSWCB continues to conduct inspections of poultry CAFO facilities to ensure they are meeting all the necessary requirements. In addition, staff continues to review and update existing WQMPs and develop plans for newly constructed farms.

For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/poultry> or contact the Poultry Program Office at (936) 462-7020.

WATER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Program Overview

Recognizing the importance of water conservation in meeting our future demand, the 80th Texas Legislature in 2007, via the passage of Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 4, directed the Texas Water

Development Board (TWDB) to appoint the members of the newly created Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC). The WCAC was created to provide the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Legislature, TWDB, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), political subdivisions, and the public with the resource of a select council with expertise in water conservation.

According to the legislation, the WCAC is composed of 23 members appointed by the TWDB. At their August 27, 2007 meeting, the TWDB appointed one member to represent each of the 23 entities or interest groups. The TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the WCAC.

Duties of the WCAC include:

- Monitoring trends in water conservation implementation and new technologies for possible inclusion as BMPs
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program and developing and implementing a state water management resource library
- Developing and implementing a public recognition program for water conservation
- Monitoring the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans
- Monitoring target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the TWDB and TCEQ
- Evaluating the desirability of requiring certification of water conservation training facilities, entities, and programs that provide assistance to retail public utilities in developing water conservation plans

Recent Activities

The WCAC met in Austin on April 20, 2011. Eight council member positions will be expiring in August 2011:

- TCEQ – Scott Swanson
- Texas Department of Agriculture – Gary Walker
- TWDB – Robert Mace
- Federal Agencies – Steven Bednarz, USDA-NRCS

- Municipalities – Karen Guz
- Refining & Chemical Manufacturing – Karl Fennessey
- Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture – Kelly Hall
- Municipality Utility Districts – Donna Howe

Nominations will be accepted by TWDB for the positions, and selections will be approved in August 2011.

Upcoming Activities

The WCAC recently reorganized its workgroups and is developing plans for upcoming activities. The WCAC has established four workgroups to work on water conservation issues: agricultural, municipal, industrial, and public awareness.

The agricultural workgroup, over the next biennium, will be reviewing the state's agricultural water conservation BMPs that were developed by the Water Conservation Task Force (2003-2005). The workgroup will determine if each BMP is still appropriate as is, or if it needs updating or removal. The agricultural workgroup will also review current methods of reporting irrigation water use (e.g., gal/ac, gal/ton) to evaluate if current methods are appropriate, or if more efficient methods should be developed and used.

The WCAC has developed water conservation awards in three categories: agricultural, municipal, and industrial. The agricultural water conservation award will be available to farmers and ranchers. If you know of someone who has effectively integrated water conservation into his or her operation, consider nominating him or her for a water conservation award. The nomination packet for agricultural water conservation award is currently being developed and will be distributed shortly. The deadline for nominations is November 2, 2011.

The workgroups do not make any decisions, but make recommendations to the WCAC for any required decisions. All interested persons are welcome and encouraged to participate as members of the various workgroups. If anyone is interested in becoming a workgroup member, please contact

Richard Egg at (254) 773-2250 ext. 246 or regg@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

The next WCAC meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2011, at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Field Office in Austin.

More information on the WCAC is available at <http://www.savetexaswater.org/>.

TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Program Overview

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is the State's official roadmap for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Governor in December 2005. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The *Texas NPS Management Program* utilizes baseline water quality management programs and regulatory, voluntary, financial, and technical assistance approaches to achieve a balanced program. NPS pollution is managed through assessment, planning, implementation, and education. The TCEQ and TSSWCB have established goals and objectives for guiding and tracking the progress of NPS management in Texas. Success in achieving the goals and objectives are reported annually in the *Annual Report on Managing NPS Water Pollution in Texas*, which is submitted to EPA in accordance with the CWA.

Implementation of the *Texas NPS Management Program* involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. SWCDs are vital partners in working with landowners to implement best

management practices (BMPs) that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution.

More information on the *Texas NPS Management Program*, including the *2010 Annual Report*, is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram>.

The following is a compilation of relevant information pertaining to the multiple water quality programs and functions administered by and/or coordinated through the TSSWCB Statewide Resource Management (SRM) group that collectively represent the agency's efforts in supporting the goals and objectives of the *Texas NPS Management Program*.

Watershed Approach

Protecting the State's rivers, streams, lakes, bays, and aquifers from the impacts of NPS pollution is a complex process. Texas uses a Watershed Approach to focus efforts on the highest priority water quality issues of both surface and ground water. The Watershed Approach is based on the following principles:

- Geographic focus based on hydrology rather than political boundaries;
- Water quality objectives based on scientific data;
- Coordinated priorities and integrated solutions; and,
- Diverse, well-integrated partnerships.

The TSSWCB applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of watershed protection plans (WPPs) and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) in those watersheds where agricultural and/or silvicultural NPS pollution is contributing to a water quality impairment or concern to an extent which TSSWCB believes is sufficient to justify expenditure of agency resources. A list of these watersheds, including links to on-going restoration projects within those watersheds, is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds>. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within

specific watersheds are provided in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Nonpoint Source Grant Program

The NPS Grant Program is administered by the TSSWCB for the purpose of providing funding as grants to cooperating entities for activities that address the goals and objectives stated in the *Texas NPS Management Program*. The Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress (through the EPA) provide funding to the TSSWCB to administer the agricultural and silvicultural components of the *Texas NPS Management Program* through the TSSWCB NPS Grant Program.

Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through this NPS Grant Program are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Clean Water Act §319(h) Grant Funding

Background

Congress enacted §319(h) of the CWA in 1987, establishing a national program to control NPS water pollution. Through §319(h), federal funds are provided annually through the EPA to States for the implementation of each State's NPS Management Program. The §319(h) funding in Texas is divided equally between the TCEQ and the TSSWCB. Over the past several years, the State's allocation has been approximately \$9 million.

FY2005 – FY2010 CWA §319(h) Grant Status

There are currently 46 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 46 on-going projects total approximately \$14.3 million and are primarily being used to implement BMPs to abate NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, grazing livestock operations and row crop operations; provide technical assistance through SWCDs for the development of WQMPs; provide financial incentives for implementing certain BMPs prescribed in WQMPs; support various targeted educational programs; develop and implement

WPPs; and implement the NPS portion of TMDL I-Plans.

FY2011 CWA §319(h) Grant Application Status

TSSWCB received 26 proposals requesting a total of \$10,877,077 in federal funds during last fall's public request for proposals. Of those 26 proposals, 8 were selected for funding.

On May 19, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff was notified that EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer had published EPA's FY2011 operating budget based on the final Congressional budget approved in April 2011. EPA ultimately shifted \$25 million out of the Congressionally-approved national CWA §319(h) allocation (~\$200 million) to other EPA program areas. This effectively reduces TSSWCB's FY2011 CWA §319(h) allocation by over 13% from FY2010 levels.

On June 1, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff was informed that EPA Region 6 was going to utilize special project funding to make up for the State's 13% funding reduction and restore the FY2011 allocation to FY2010 levels. TSSWCB's FY2011 CWA 319 allocation from EPA is \$4,578,700. TSSWCB submitted the FY2011 §319(h) grant application to EPA on July 1, 2011.

State General Revenue Grant Funding

Background

The 80th Texas Legislature appropriated general revenue funds to the TSSWCB for the purpose of planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution in impaired watersheds; the 81st Texas Legislature renewed this appropriation.

The State Board has approved operating budgets for FY2009, FY2010, and FY2011 that allocated a total of \$3.79 million in state general revenue to the NPS Grant Program. On September 17, 2009, the Board approved a revised *TSSWCB Policy on TMDLs and Watershed Planning, Assessment, and Implementation Activities* which provides guidance to SRM staff on directing these state appropriations for the NPS Grant Program. This *Policy* is available

at
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram#StateGR>.

FY2009 – FY2011 State General Revenue Grant Status

There are currently 11 on-going general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 11 on-going projects total approximately \$2.7 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct recreational use attainability analyses (RUAAs); support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking (BST) laboratories; demonstrate innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations and grazing lands; and collect and analyze water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies.

Total Maximum Daily Load Program

Background

The CWA requires Texas to identify lakes, rivers, streams, and estuaries failing to meet or not expected to meet water quality standards and not supporting their designated uses (swimming, drinking, aquatic life, etc.). This list of impaired waterbodies is known as the *Texas 303(d) List* and must be submitted to the EPA for review and approval every two years.

The State must then establish a TMDL for certain waterbodies identified on the *Texas 303(d) List*. A TMDL defines the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate on a daily basis and still meet water quality standards. The pollution reduction goal set by the TMDL is necessary to restore attainment of the designated use of the impaired waterbody. The TMDL allocates pollutant loads between point sources and nonpoint sources. It also takes into account a margin of safety, which reflects uncertainty and future growth.

Based on the environmental target of the TMDL an Implementation Plan (I-Plan) is then developed that prescribes the measures necessary to mitigate anthropogenic (human-caused) sources of that pollutant in that waterbody. The I-Plan specifies

limits for point source dischargers and recommends BMPs for nonpoint sources. It also lays out a schedule for implementation. Together, the TMDL and the I-Plan serve as the mechanism to reduce the pollutant, restore the full use of the waterbody, and remove it from the *303(d) List*. EPA must approve the TMDL, but the I-Plan only requires State approval. TSSWCB shares responsibility with the TCEQ for the development and implementation of TMDLs.

More information on TMDLs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl>. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Watershed Protection Plan Program

Background

Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs) are locally-driven mechanisms for voluntarily addressing complex water quality problems that cross multiple jurisdictions. WPPs are coordinated frameworks for implementing prioritized water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives. Through the watershed planning process, TSSWCB encourages stakeholders to holistically address all of the sources and causes of impairments and threats to both surface and ground water resources within a watershed.

WPPs integrate activities and prioritize implementation projects based upon technical merit and benefits to the community, promote a unified approach to seeking funding for implementation, and create a coordinated public education program. Developed and implemented through diverse, well integrated partnerships, a WPP assures the long-term health of the watershed with solutions that are socially acceptable and economically viable which achieve environmental goals for water resources. Adaptive management is used to modify the WPP based on an on-going science-based process that incorporates new knowledge into decision-making.

TSSWCB provides technical and financial assistance to local stakeholder groups to develop and implement WPPs to address significant

agricultural or silvicultural NPS issues. EPA requires certain expenditures through CWA §319(h) grants to be in accordance with a WPP. While WPPs sponsored by TCEQ have significant water quality issues related to urban NPS pollution or wastewater treatment, most, to varying degrees, have agricultural or silvicultural NPS pollution components. There are several other watershed planning projects across the state which are funded and sponsored by entities and agencies other than TSSWCB or TCEQ.

More information on WPPs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp>. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program

Background

The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The CMP improves the management of the State's coastal resources to ensure long-term ecological and economic productivity of the coast. The CMP brings in federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funds to Texas to implement projects and program activities for a wide variety of purposes. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. The Coastal Coordination Council (CCC), established by the Texas Legislature, administers the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCC.

The CCC is charged with adopting uniform goals and policies to guide decision-making by all entities regulating or managing natural resource use within the Texas coastal area. The CCC reviews significant actions taken or authorized by state agencies and subdivisions of state government that may adversely affect coastal natural resources to determine consistency with CMP goals and policies. In addition, the CCC oversees the CMP Grants Program and the Small Business and Individual Permitting Assistance Program.

The federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) §6217 requires each State with an approved CMP to develop a federally approvable program to control coastal NPS pollution. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the EPA jointly administer §6217 at the federal level. In Texas, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ hold primary responsibility for the development and implementation of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program*.

More information on the CMP is available at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html>.

Conditional Approval Status of Coastal NPS Program

Texas submitted the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* to EPA and NOAA in December 1998. In July 2003, NOAA and EPA issued conditional approval of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program*. NOAA identified five areas the State must strengthen or correct; the agricultural and silvicultural portions of the program were approved without conditions. Texas had five years to meet the remaining conditions to gain full approval. States that fail to submit an adequate program (full approval) face penalties including loss of EPA and NOAA funds, including CWA §319(h) NPS grant monies.

In July 2008, the CCC again responded to the remaining conditional approval findings of NOAA and EPA. It was anticipated that this response would address the remaining conditions resulting in a fully-approved program. However, in May 2009, GLO received comments from NOAA and EPA which concluded that enough progress had been made to lift only one of the conditions. TCEQ is finalizing a letter to NOAA and EPA that describes the State's approach to address the remaining conditional approval findings.

Coastal Coordination Council (CCC)

The CCC was reviewed by the Sunset Advisory Commission this biennium. Sunset legislation (SB656) has been signed by the Governor. The act abolishes the CCC and transfers its functions to the

Land Commissioner and the GLO. The legislation also requires establishment of a Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee to advise the Land Commissioner on matters related to the CMP. This Advisory Committee includes a representative of the TSSWCB designated by the Chairman of the State Board. The act takes effect September 1, 2011.

More information on the CCC is available at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/GLO/boards-and-commissions/coastal-coordination-council/ccc-meetings.html>.

CMP Grant Program

Application information for Grant Cycle 17 was distributed in April 2011. The CCC expects to award approximately \$1.8 million for planning, acquisition, construction, education, and research projects during Grant Cycle 17. The deadline for pre-proposals was June 22, 2011. The full application is due October 12, 2011.

The CCC will accept applications for both construction and non-construction projects that address any of the following funding categories:

- Coastal Natural Hazards Response
- Critical Areas Enhancements
- Shoreline Access
- Waterfront Revitalization and Ecotourism Development
- Permit Streamlining/Assistance, Governmental Coordination, and Local Government Planning Assistance
- Water Sediment Quantity and Quality Improvements

More information on the CMP grant program can be found at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html>.

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

Background

Established by the Texas Legislature in 1989, the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC)

bridges the gap between State groundwater programs, improves coordination between member agencies, and works to protect groundwater as a vital resource; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the TGPC.

The Texas Water Code sets non-degradation of the State's groundwater resources as the goal for all State programs and asserts that groundwater is kept reasonably free of contaminants that interfere with its present and potential uses. The TGPC implements the State's groundwater protection policy which:

- Requires that pollution discharges, waste disposal and other regulated activities not harm public health or impair current or potential groundwater use;
- Recognizes the variability between aquifers;
- Acknowledges the importance of water quality;
- Balances the protection of the environment and the long-term economic health of the state; and,
- Recognizes the use of the best professional judgment of the responsible state agencies to implement the policy.

The TGPC will meet next on July 20 in Austin.

More information on the TGPC is available at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/>.

Water Quality Coordination Activities

Coordination with TCEQ

On September 27, 2006, at a joint meeting, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ approved a new *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on TMDLs, I-Plans, and WPPs*. This framework for collaboration between the two agencies describes the programmatic mechanisms employed to develop and implement TMDLs and WPPs. TSSWCB SRM staff continue to work with TCEQ staff to implement components of the MOA. The MOA is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl#moa>.

Coordination with Texas Water Development Board

On July 7, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] joined TCEQ staff in a meeting in Austin with staff from the TWDB to discuss coordination between the three agencies. TWDB manages the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) which is a federal CWA program administered by EPA. The CWSRF provides loans at interest rates lower than the market to political subdivisions to be used for planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment facilities; sewer collection systems; and NPS pollution control projects. Discussion focused on the draft FY2012 Intended Use Plan (IUP) and the NPS projects proposed for funding; discussion centered on projects related to the Plum Creek and Arroyo Colorado WPPs. The public comment period on the draft FY2012 IUP concludes July 22, 2011.

Surface Water Quality Standards Revision

On June 30, 2010, the TCEQ adopted major revisions to 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 307, Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (Standards), and the *Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, RG-194* (IPs). These major revisions to the Standards include the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for large reservoirs and significant modifications to contact recreation use and associated bacteria criteria. The adopted Standards became effective as a State rule on July 22, 2010. TCEQ submitted the revised Standards and IPs to EPA on August 4, 2010. EPA must now take action to approve these changes to the Standards in accordance with the federal CWA.

On June 29, 2011, EPA notified TCEQ of action taken on the water quality standards revisions. EPA approved the changes to recreation use and bacteria criteria. However, the high flow exemption was disapproved.

More information on the revisions to the Standards is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/2010standards.html.

New Watershed Action Planning Process

TCEQ staff has been working to develop a document that describes a new Watershed Action Planning approach to the State's water quality management programs.

The document will illustrate Watershed Action Planning and describe the approach including an overview of the state water quality planning programs, the role of stakeholders, and the options available to address water quality impairments. The Watershed Action Planning process recognizes a range of tools and options for addressing impaired waterbodies on the *303(d) List*. The Watershed Action Planning process provides for a stakeholder-led evaluation of watershed-specific circumstances and a deliberative and collective decision as to what tool to apply to move forward with addressing the listing.

TCEQ will maintain a database of information gathered during the Watershed Action Planning process, such as the waterbody, the impairment or priority interest, the date it was first listed on the *303(d) List*, the management strategy to address the impairment (e.g., UAA, TMDL, WPP), the timeline for completing the management strategy, the responsible agency, and interim performance measures.

Watershed Action Planning will increase the transparency of the State's water quality management programs by presenting the list of impaired waters in such a manner as to communicate activities and intentions collectively to the public at large. Watershed Action Planning is key to providing for the collaboration being called for and the coordination necessary to achieve the goal of clean water for Texan.

Recreational Use Attainability Analyses

The recently adopted revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards establish a four tier approach to recreation use including primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation 1, secondary contact recreation 2, and noncontact recreation. In order to change the presumed level of recreation use of a waterbody (i.e., primary contact) to any of the other 3 tiers and the associated bacteria criterion, a

recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) must be completed for each waterbody and approved by TCEQ and subsequently EPA.

The purpose of an RUAA is to ascertain the actual recreation occurring on a waterbody, establish or verify a presumed use, and, if necessary, assign a more appropriate use. During an RUAA information is collected on water recreation activities, stream flow type, and stream depth; additionally, interviews from users who are present during surveys and those familiar with the waterbody are conducted and a review of historical information is completed. If the results of the RUAA indicate that a different, more appropriate use is warranted, the resulting change in the associated bacteria criterion may result in the waterbody no longer being identified on the *303(d) List* as impaired, thus negating the need to adopt a TMDL.

The TCEQ is in the process of conducting RUAAs on over 110 waterbodies across the state; TSSWCB is taking the lead on conducting RUAAs on another 12 waterbodies. TCEQ contractors were asked to coordinate communication with SWCDs through TSSWCB SRM staff. After the RUAAs are conducted, TCEQ will evaluate the information and again consult with stakeholders regarding potential site-specific revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards for each waterbody.

Summaries of RUAA activities on waterbodies where TMDLs and/or WPPs are also on-going are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

More information on RUAAs is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/wq_assessment/standards/ruaas/index. These RUAAs affect livestock operations in scores of watersheds across the state.

Texas Clean Rivers Program

The Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) is a state fee-funded program for water quality monitoring, assessment, and public outreach administered by the TCEQ. CRP is a collaboration of 15 partner agencies who conduct water quality monitoring and

assessments in the 23 river and coastal basins, plus bays and estuaries, in Texas.

Each river or coastal basin is assigned to one of the designated CRP partner agencies. Each CRP partner agency has an established steering committee to set monitoring and assessment priorities within its basin. These committees bring together the diverse interests in each basin and are designed to allow local concerns to be addressed through regional solutions.

The Texas Water Code requires the TCEQ and CRP partner agencies to coordinate monitoring and assessment activities with local SWCDs through the TSSWCB.

The data generated by CRP partner agencies is used to identify significant long-term water quality trends and characterize water quality conditions. Each CRP partner agency develops and publishes an annual *Basin Highlights Report* and a five-year *Basin Summary Report*. The TCEQ also uses CRP-generated data in the biennial assessment conducted for the *Texas Integrated Report*.

More information on CRP is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html>.

On June 28, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended the Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee meeting for the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority in Edna. An overview of the Clean Rivers Program was given and an amendment to the Basin Highlights Report was handed out. Also, updates on the SB3 instream flows and environmental flows for the Colorado and Lavaca River Basins process were given, with the work expected to be completed in August 2011.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

On July 20, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a quarterly Galveston Bay Council meeting at Armand Bayou Nature Center near Houston. This meeting featured presentations on different activities in the Galveston Bay Watershed. The first presentation was on the Bayou Greenway Initiative, which is made up of various groups along

the different bayous in the Houston area. They presented ideas for parks and features to be implemented along the bayous in order to increase use by the community as well as improve overall water and air quality. The next presentation was an update of the Galveston Bay Public Awareness Campaign, which is titled "Back the Bay". The update focused on the sample work being done in Pearland, and they intend to follow up in a few months with the results. The final presentation was on the Bacteria Implementation Group and how H-GAC was seeking an approval letter from the Council. The Council agreed to endorse the plan and submit a formal letter.

More information is available at <http://www.gbep.state.tx.us/>. The implementation of the *Galveston Bay Plan* affects agricultural and silvicultural operations in watersheds that drain to the Galveston Bay complex in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris and Liberty Counties.

San Antonio Bay Estuary Program

On July 12, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a meeting on a Wetland Inventory for San Antonio Bay in Victoria. This project is part of the ongoing study of San Antonio Bay to develop a comprehensive management plan for the bay. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) is performing the study, which includes site inventory for protection, restoration, and enhancement of coastal habitats around the bay. Many sites have been identified as critical wetland habitat to preserve, restore, and/or protect in the bay system. The highest priority area identified is in the Guadalupe Delta. Other sites that have been identified are oyster reefs, rookery islands, spoil islands and various flats in the bay system. TAMUCC is expected to complete the work by August 2011, with the results to be available through the university and the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program.

More information is available at <http://www.sabaypartnership.org/>. The development of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for San Antonio Bay has the potential to affect agricultural and silvicultural operations in watersheds that drain to the San Antonio Bay

complex in Aransas, Calhoun, Goliad, Refugio, and Victoria Counties.

Texas Best Management Practice Evaluation Tool (TBET)

TSSWCB provided a State General Revenue NPS Grant to USDA Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) to develop an easy-to-use, Texas-specific tool to use in science-based BMP selection, cost-effective conservation spending, and program benefit analysis. Specifically, this tool, the Texas BMP Evaluation Tool (TBET), was designed to (1) assist land managers and agency planners in conservation practice decision-making related to on-farm alternatives and effectiveness, and (2) facilitate evaluation and reporting of agricultural nonpoint source pollutant load reductions from WQMP implementation.

TBET strikes a balance between tools that are either too basic to ensure scientific validity and landowner buy-in or are too complicated for conservation planners to use with landowners in placing conservation practices on the ground. TBET is simple enough, yet scientifically valid, so that cost-effective conservation practice alternatives can be examined and appropriate options chosen based on field-specific information. TBET is based on the scientifically-rigorous Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT model), but simplifies the inputs with a customized user interface so that extensive modeling experience is not required. TBET allows TSSWCB to better gauge the programmatic effectiveness (fiscal and environmental) of the WQMP Program and associated state and federal cost-share funding mechanisms. Thus, development and implementation of TBET will improve conservation planning, enhance soil conditions, improve water quality, and increase fiscal efficiency across Texas.

On June 30, TSSWCB SRM staff [David Reeves, Aaron Wendt, Pamela Casebolt, Mitch Conine, Ashley Alexander, Lee Munz, John Foster] hosted a TBET users meeting in Temple. Thirty-two participants from the TSSWCB Regional Offices and SWCDs attended. The group discussed their progress, success and struggles encountered while using TBET. TSSWCB staff provided crucial

insight to improve the program's functionality and effectiveness. This tool has successfully modeled nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions on WQMPs across the state.

Texas Watershed Stewards Workshop - Temple

On July 14, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Baker] attended a Texas Watershed Steward workshop in Temple, Texas. Sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service TSSWCB in coordination with the City of Temple the training discussed what it is to be a watershed steward, watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community driven watershed protection and management. Over 40 participants from across Bell County attended this workshop. The training also involved interactive displays such as a rainfall simulator. The workshop included an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas and focused on water quality issues relating to the Temple area. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tws.tamu.edu/>

Upcoming Public Meetings

- August 2, 2011 – Atascosa River Stakeholder Meeting (Pleasanton)
- August 4, 2011 – Leon River WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Hamilton)
- August 9, 2011 – Aransas Creek RUAA Coordination Meeting (Corpus Christi)
- August 10, 2011 – Mid-Pecan Bayou RUAA Public Meeting (Brownwood)
- August 11, 2011 – Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee Meeting (Lockhart)
- August 16, 2011 – Bacteria Implementation Group Meeting (Houston)
- August 30, 2011 – Cedar Bayou Texas Watershed Steward Workshop (Baytown)
- September 1, 2011 – Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

The TSSWCB applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of WPPs and TMDLs. A list of watersheds including links to on-going restoration projects within those watersheds is available at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds>; more detailed information on all watersheds described below is available at this website.

Arroyo Colorado

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Concerns: Nutrients, Sediment
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

On June 21, 2011 TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander, Aaron Wendt] attended the Arroyo Colorado Steering Committee/Partnership meeting in Weslaco. All of the work groups presented updates from their individual meetings. Key items discussed included the new appointment of a Texas AgriLife Extension Assistant for the Arroyo Colorado Education and Outreach project, IBWC tree and vegetation removal project, Wetland index and protection projects, waste water monitoring project, and the updating of the WPP. Also presented at the meeting were the results for the RUAA that was conducted by the Nueces River Authority.

More information is available at <http://www.arroyocolorado.org/>. This WPP affects farming operations in the Arroyo Colorado watershed in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

Dickinson Bayou

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, I-Plan, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

On June 30, 2011 TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a Dickinson Bayou I-plan Ag and Animal Sources Workgroup meeting in Houston.

This meeting was held to make final editing and review of the 9 element tables and written portions of the bacteria I-plan. Also, posters for the open house were reviewed to better connect with stakeholders.

This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the ongoing TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. More information on the TMDL and the RUAA is available at

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/80-dickinsonbayoubacteria.html> and more information on the dissolved oxygen TMDL is available at

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/17-dickinson.html>.

More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.dickinsonbayou.org/>. Both the WPP and the TMDLs have the potential to affect farming and ranching operations in the Dickinson Bayou watershed in Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

Eagle Mountain Reservoir

Impairment: Bacteria

Concerns: Nutrients, Bacteria

Mechanism: WPP, UAA

Lead: Third party (WPP), TCEQ (UAA)

On June 24, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] attended an Eagle Mountain Reservoir WPP stakeholder meeting in Azle. At this meeting, the group was provided an update on modeling pollutant loading (phosphorus and sediment) from the watershed and impacts to the reservoir.

Additionally, the group discussed an economic analysis of the cost-effectiveness of BMPs in relation to the potential pollutant reductions that could be achieved.

More information on the WPP is available at <http://nctx-water.tamu.edu/>. More information on the RUAA is available at http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_quality/wq_assessment/standards/ruaas/ruaastrinity. This WPP has the potential to affect agricultural operations in the Eagle Mountain Reservoir watershed in Clay, Jack, Montague, Parker, Tarrant and Wise Counties.

Lake Houston

Impairment: Bacteria

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Lake Houston, Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous, Clear Creek and others. The BIG is responsible for receiving input, establishing workgroups, facilitating communications, developing recommendations, and providing oversight in the development of the I-Plan designed to achieve the load reductions called for in these TMDLs.

On April 6, 2011, TCEQ adopted as final *Fifteen TMDLs for Indicator Bacteria in Watersheds Upstream of Lake Houston (Segments 1004E, 1008, 1008H, 1009, 1009C, 1009D, 1009E, 1010, and 1011)*. These TMDLs allocate maximum pollutant loadings of bacteria between point sources and nonpoint sources in order to achieve the water quality criterion, and effectively necessitate a 41-81% overall annual load reduction (depending on the particular waterbody) to restore attainment of primary contact recreation use. For each of these TMDLs, TCEQ selected the highest flow condition as the critical period which necessitates an 81-96% reduction (depending on the particular waterbody) during these wet-weather events in order to achieve the overall annual reduction. These TMDLs must be approved by EPA before they are effective.

On July 19, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) meeting in Houston. This meeting was the final meeting before H-GAC seeks approval from the steering committee to complete the BIG plan in August. H-GAC and TCEQ staff explained the process after receiving approval from the steering committee. The plan will undergo review by TCEQ staff, and then will go before the commission and for public comment. Also, H-GAC is seeking endorsement for the plan from cities, counties, MUDs, and other groups. Harris County SWCD #442 has already sent an endorsement letter for the plan.

More information on the greater Houston area Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/BIG/default.aspx>. More information on the Lake Houston TMDLs is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/82-lakehouston.html>. These TMDLs affect livestock operations in the Lake Houston watershed in Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller Counties.

Lampasas River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On June 16, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Loren Warrick, Jana Baker] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Steering Committee Meeting in Lampasas. Discussion focused on workgroup recommendations for BMPs to address wastewater treatment facilities, sanitary sewer collection systems, on-site sewage facilities and dogs, as well as other proactive measures. Outreach and educational programs to support the Lampasas River WPP were also discussed.

More information is available at <http://www.lampasasriver.org/>. This WPP will affect livestock operations in the Lampasas River watershed in Bell, Burnet, Hamilton, Lampasas and Mills Counties.

Pecos River

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Concern: Salinity
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On June 28 and June 29, 2011, over 50 individuals attended a Texas Watershed Steward workshop in Pecos and Iraan. Sponsored by TSSWCB, through a CWA §319(h) grant, and facilitated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the training discussed watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community-driven watershed protection and management. The workshop was held in

support of on-going watershed planning efforts by the Texas Water Resource Institute. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tw.s.tamu.edu/>.

More information is available at <http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/>. This WPP affects agricultural operations in the Pecos River watershed in Andrews, Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward and Winkler Counties.

San Bernard River

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

On June 24, 2011, University of Houston Clear Lake hosted the final meeting for the San Bernard River RUAA in Needville. This meeting was held to give the final results for RUAAAs that were completed on the San Bernard River and two tributaries, West Bernard Creek and Gum Tree Branch. Surveys and field work revealed evidence of all types of recreation, including primary contact recreation on the San Bernard River, but could not find any evidence, written or physical of primary contact recreation on West Bernard Creek or Gum Tree Branch.

More information is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/go/sanbernard>. This WPP affects farming and livestock operations in the San Bernard River watershed in Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend and Wharton Counties.

South Llano River

Impairment: None
Mechanism: Assessment, Planning
Lead: Third party

On June 25, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] attended a South Llano Watershed Alliance stakeholder meeting in Junction. The group discussed progress to develop a TPWD-sponsored paddling trail on the South Llano River and to implement the TPWD Guadalupe Bass Initiative. Additionally, the group discussed watershed

planning and the CWA §319(h) nonpoint source grant proposal submitted to TSSWCB for FY2011 funding.

More information is available at <http://southllano.org/>. This project has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the South Llano River watershed in Edwards, Kerr, Kimble, Real and Sutton Counties.

Upper Oyster Creek

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan, UAA

Lead: TCEQ

On June 14, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended an Upper Oyster Creek I-Plan meeting in Sugarland. This meeting featured updates from the different workgroups that are putting together implementation ideas to deal with elevated bacteria levels in Upper Oyster Creek. H-GAC staff presented information on the DO impairment and introduced a few BMPs for increasing DO levels in the water.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/25-oystercreek.html>. These TMDLs will have limited affect on farming and livestock operations in the Upper Oyster Creek watershed in Fort Bend County.

WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Program Overview

Administered by the TSSWCB, the goal of the program is to enhance the state's quantity of water resources in selected aquifers, streams, and reservoirs through the selective control of brush species. The 81st Texas Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$4,503,641 in General Revenue Funds in FY2011.

These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by the TSSWCB. Since the beginning of the program

in 1999, there has been over 741,000 acres of brush treated in priority watersheds throughout the state.

The following SWCDs were provided Water Supply Enhancement Program Updates, Water Supply Enhancement Program Certifications and/or Contracts:

Area 2 Districts

- Middle Concho SWCD
- Eldorado-Divide SWCD
- Tom Green SWCD
- Pedernales SWCD
- Gillespie County SWCD
- Kerr County SWCD
- Kendall SWCD

Area 3 Districts

- McMullen County SWCD
- LaSalle County SWCD
- Caldwell-Travis SWCD
- Comal-Guadalupe SWCD
- Webb SWCD
- Frio SWCD

Area 5 Districts

- Archer County SWCD
- Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD
- Pecan Bayou SWCD
- Bosque SWCD
- Little Wichita SWCD

Currently the Water Supply Enhancement Program is administrating 14 projects throughout the state.

Listed below are the projects and the project's contact person:

- Twin Buttes Reservoir – Tuffy Wood
- O.C. Fisher Reservoir – Tuffy Wood
- Pedernales River – Melissa Grote
- Guadalupe River – Melissa Grote
- Edwards Aquifer (Bandera County) – Melissa Grote
- Fort Phantom Hill Reservoir – Cody York
- Nueces River – Adrian Perez
- Frio River – Adrian Perez
- Lower Guadalupe River – Tuffy Wood
- Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer – Tuffy Wood

- Palo Pinto Reservoir – Cody York
- Bosque River – Cody York
- Little Wichita River (Archer and Clay Counties) – Cody York
- Lake Brownwood – Cody York

Staff Activities

- Evaluate all current projects
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque River, Kendall and Blanco Counties with Brush Certifications
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo and Bosque River with Brush Contracts
- Assist the Frio and Nueces Projects with contracts and certifications
- Coordinating meetings in Frio, Nueces, and Twin Buttes to begin application on Projects
- Evaluate new rules and recommendation for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

Program Overview

Nearly 2,000 floodwater retarding structures, or dams, have been built over the last 60 years within Texas. The primary purpose of the structures is to protect lives and property by reducing the velocity of floodwaters, and thereby releasing flows at a safer rate. A secondary benefit is the reduction of nonpoint source pollutants (e.g., sediment) in floodwater downstream. These are earthen dams that exist on private property, and were designed and constructed by USDA-NRCS. They were built with the understanding that the private property owner would provide the land, the federal government would provide the technical design expertise and the funding to construct them, and then units of local government would be responsible for maintaining them into the future.

Local sponsors of the dams were required before a federal project was begun. Local sponsors signed a watershed agreement which outlined the duties and responsibilities of the federal and local sponsors. In

general, local sponsors are required to obtain and enforce easements, conduct operation and maintenance (O&M) inspections, maintain the structures, and implement land treatment measures in the watershed. SWCDs are one of the local sponsors in all watershed projects. Other local sponsors include counties, cities, and water control and improvement districts.

Due to the passage of time and difficulty in raising adequate funds locally, many sponsors approached the Texas Legislature with their concerns over the amount of needed O&M and structural repairs. In recognition that these dams will continue to serve as a critical protection for our states' infrastructure, private property, and lives, the Legislature appropriated \$15 million dollars to the TSSWCB for grants to local SWCDs during the 2010-2011 biennium for O&M and structural repairs.

More information on these Flood Control Programs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/floodcontrol>.

O&M Grant Program

The following table is a summary of the Flood Control O&M Program for FY2010 and FY2011 as of July 15, 2011.

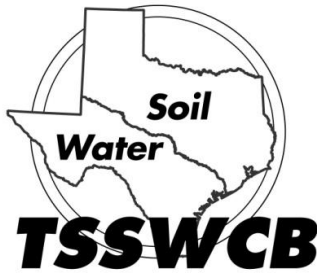
FY2010 Contracted \$555,129		FY2011 Allocation \$2,472,009	
Original O&M	Original Admin	Original O&M	Original Admin
\$528,653	\$26,477	\$2,354,636	\$117,373
Spent O&M	Spent Admin	Spent O&M	Spent Admin
\$474,441	\$22,247	\$1,538,842	\$76,335
Remaining O&M	Remaining Admin	Remaining O&M	Remaining Admin
\$55,616	\$2,781	\$815,794	\$41,037
Total FY2010 Remaining \$58,397		Total FY2011 Remaining \$856,832	

Structural Repair Grant Program

TSSWCB staff is finalizing decisions on applications submitted for FY2011 grant funding and will be contacting potential grantees in the near future.

Monthly Program News and Activities is published by the TSSWCB for use by Texas SWCD Directors.

If you have any questions regarding its contents, or have information you would like to see in a future issue, please call (254) 773-2250.



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Established in 1939, the TSSWCB administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs to agricultural producers through the State's 216 individual SWCDs. The agency is governed by a seven-member State Board composed of two Governor appointees and five individuals elected from across Texas by 1,080 Directors of local SWCDs. The TSSWCB is the lead state agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint sources of water pollution; administers a water supply enhancement program through the targeted control of brush species in areas in need of water conservation; provides operation, maintenance, and structural repair grant funds to local government sponsors of the State's network of 2,000 flood control dams; and, facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.